



HR0310

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Maria Bronny
4 Ciesla on the occasion of her retirement from her position as
5 President of the Polish Museum of America; and

6 WHEREAS, Maria Ciesla is in her tenth year as President of
7 The Polish Museum of America (PMA), a volunteer position; under
8 her leadership, extensive renovations occurred at the PMA,
9 including The Paderewski Room, The Stephen and Ann Kusmierczak
10 Art Gallery, the new gift shop, the new entry way, and a new
11 rare books collection room; fundraising with new and innovative
12 methods increased dramatically; membership tripled; increased
13 awareness occurred of the PMA, not only as a museum but as a
14 source for academic and general research; an increase in the
15 number of events and exhibits took place; and she oversaw the
16 modernization of the reporting systems; she has continued to
17 help the museum by becoming the Treasurer; she and her husband
18 are life-members of the PMA; and

19 WHEREAS, Maria Ciesla was born in a displaced persons camp
20 in Butzbach, Germany; she came to the United States with her
21 parents in 1948, and her family first settled in Chicago,
22 before moving to west central Illinois; she received her
23 Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1969 from Rosary College (now

1 Dominican University); she became active in Chicago's
2 Polish-American community and has remained so for 47 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Maria Ciesla has held offices in organizations
4 such as the Chicago Intercollegiate Council and the North
5 Edgebrook Civic Association, and she has served on the St. Mary
6 of the Woods School Board, on its Parish Council, and as a
7 founding member of the St. Mary of the Woods Fine Arts Council;
8 she served as President of the St. Mary of the Woods Altar and
9 Rosary Society, the Loyola Academy Mother's Club, the Mother's
10 Association of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
11 the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition - both of the Illinois
12 Division and as national President - the Polish American
13 Scholarship Fund, the Legion of Young Polish Women, and the
14 Polish Women's Civic Club; she is a board member of the Lira
15 Ensemble and was a long-time panelist on the Ovarian Cancer
16 Panels of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research
17 Programs through the Department of Defense; in 1982, she was
18 named as an "Outstanding Young Woman of America"; she received
19 the Community Service Award from the Council of Educators in
20 Polonia and the Northeastern Illinois University Office of
21 Alumni Affairs, and she and her husband, Richard, were the 2009
22 Award of Merit recipients of the Advocates Society, comprised
23 of attorneys of Polish heritage; and

24 WHEREAS, Maria Ciesla is also a Life Member of the Polish

1 Arts Club and a member of the Polish-American Librarians
2 Association and the Polish American Historical Association;
3 she received the bronze Gloria Artis medal from the Republic of
4 Poland for her contributions to the cultural life of the
5 Polish-American community; she was honored as one of the 10
6 2012 Outstanding Women in Non-Profits by the Clerk of the
7 Circuit Court of Cook County, and she was honored by the Keep
8 On Keeping On Foundation as its Woman of the Year for 2012,
9 which raises funds for equipment for physically challenged
10 young people; in May of 2012, she received the Commander's
11 Cross of the Order of Merit, the highest civilian honor awarded
12 from Polish President Boleslaw Komorowski, on his visit to
13 Chicago for a NATO Conference; and

14 WHEREAS, Maria Ciesla was a piano teacher for 35 years; she
15 has been married to Richard Ciesla, who is also active in
16 Chicago's Polish-American community, for 46 years; they have 4
17 children and 8 grandchildren; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 congratulate Maria Bronny Ciesla on her retirement as President
21 of the Polish Museum of America and wish her the best in all
22 her future endeavors; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Maria Ciesla as an expression of our esteem and
2 respect.